



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6435**

January Session, 2015



**AN ACT STREAMLINING THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR  
RESIDENTIAL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) As used in this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Residential solar photovoltaic system" means equipment and  
4 devices that have the primary purpose of collecting solar energy and  
5 generating electricity by photovoltaic effect, have a nameplate capacity  
6 rating of twelve kilowatts or less, are installed on the roof of a single-  
7 family or multifamily home, conform to the National Electrical Code  
8 and State Building and Fire Safety Codes and do not exceed the  
9 maximum building height authorized by the municipality where such  
10 home is situated;

11 (2) "Municipality" means any town, consolidated town and city or  
12 consolidated town and borough;

13 (3) "Permit" means a permit to install and interconnect a residential  
14 solar photovoltaic system to the electric grid;

15 (4) "Permit applicant" means a natural person or household seeking  
16 a permit to install a residential solar photovoltaic system;

17 (5) "Inspection" means a structural, electrical and fire safety  
18 inspection of the permit applicant's residential solar photovoltaic  
19 system; and

20 (6) "Electronic submission" means the act of a permit applicant who  
21 submits his or her completed application to a municipality for review  
22 by means of electronic mail, facsimile or electronic application  
23 available on a municipality's Internet web site.

24 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, each municipality shall develop a  
25 permitting process for residential solar photovoltaic systems. Each  
26 municipality may (1) develop and post on the municipality's Internet  
27 web site a permit application for the installation of a residential solar  
28 photovoltaic system, (2) allow for electronic submission of such  
29 application, and (3) exempt such system from payment of permit fees  
30 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 29-263 of the general statutes.

31 (c) Not more than thirty days after receipt of a permit application, a  
32 municipality shall inform such permit applicant whether such  
33 application is approved or disapproved. Review of the permit  
34 application shall be limited to whether the residential solar  
35 photovoltaic system meets all municipal, state and federal health and  
36 safety requirements.

37 (d) Not more than thirty days after the installation of a residential  
38 solar photovoltaic system, a municipality shall inspect such system.  
39 Such municipality may contract with a third-party contractor to  
40 perform such inspections. Such contractor shall have a current  
41 Connecticut PV-1 limited solar electric contractor license. The  
42 municipality shall disclose on its permit application whether it  
43 contracts with a third-party contractor to perform the inspection and  
44 the cost of such inspection. Not more than one inspection shall be  
45 required for each residential solar photovoltaic system, unless a health  
46 or safety issue is detected during the inspection of such system. A  
47 municipality may perform a separate fire safety inspection if deemed  
48 necessary by the municipality. If the municipality or a third-party

49 contractor performing such inspection makes a finding that a  
50 residential solar photovoltaic system does not meet municipal, state or  
51 federal health and safety requirements, such municipality may require  
52 the permit applicant to apply for a special use permit.

53 (e) Nothing in this section shall authorize any person to cause any  
54 home or structure located within a historic district established  
55 pursuant to section 7-147b of the general statutes to be altered, as  
56 defined in section 7-147a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section
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***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In Section 1(d), the word "is" was deleted and replaced with the phrase "shall be" for accuracy.

***ET***            *Joint Favorable Subst.*